

Date Mailed
May 13, 1998

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Northern States Power Company, as
a Gas Public Utility, for Authority to Construct
Facilities and Provide Natural Gas Service in Portions
of the Town of Greenfield, La Crosse County,
Wisconsin

4220-CG-127

**NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION
AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

Northern States Power Company, as a gas public utility, filed an application with the Commission on January 20, 1998, for authority under s. 196.49, Stats., and Chapter PSC 133, Wis. Adm. Code, to construct facilities and provide natural gas service in the northwest one quarter of section 17 and the south one half of the southwest one quarter of section 8 in the Town of Greenfield, La Crosse County, Wisconsin.

NSP is a gas public utility, as defined in s. 196.01(5), Stats., engaged in the business of distributing and selling natural gas in a number of cities, villages, and towns in west-central and northern Wisconsin.

Commission order CA-5073, dated October 14, 1969, authorized Midwest Natural Gas, Inc. (MNG), as a gas public utility, to construct facilities and provide natural gas service in the Town of Greenfield, La Crosse County, Wisconsin.

Therefore, the Commission will consider NSP's request for authorization to construct facilities and provide natural gas utility service in the northwest one quarter of section 17 and the south one half of the southwest one quarter of section 8 in the Town of Greenfield, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, under ss. 196.49 and 196.50, Stats., and Chapter PSC 133, Wis. Adm. Code.

NSP and MNG entered into a territorial agreement dated September 30, 1997, establishing respective natural gas service areas in the Towns of Greenfield, Holland, and Onalaska, La Crosse County, Wisconsin. A copy of the territorial agreement was filed with the Commission.

NSP and MNG entered into a territorial agreement dated March 17, 1998, which supersedes the agreement dated September 30, 1997, establishing respective natural gas service areas in the Towns of Greenfield, Holland, and Onalaska, La Crosse County, Wisconsin. A copy of the territorial agreement was filed with the Commission.

The March 17, 1998, territorial agreement assigns NSP the northwest one quarter of section 17 and the south one half of the southwest one quarter of section 8 in the Town of Greenfield, La Crosse County, Wisconsin. The agreement also assigns MNG portions of the Towns of Holland and Onalaska, La Crosse County, Wisconsin.

Only the areas which the March 17, 1998, territorial agreement assigns to NSP are the subject of the application in this docket. The Towns of Holland and Onalaska, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, are the subject of MNG's application in docket 3670-CG-111. Nothing in the territorial agreement authorizes MNG to construct facilities and provide natural gas service in portions of the Towns of Holland and Onalaska, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, without a prior Commission order.

The Commission is concurrently considering the application by NSP in this docket and the application of MNG in docket 3670-CG-111, pursuant to the March 17, 1998, territorial agreement. The Commission intends to issue this order concurrently with an order in docket 4220-CG-127. The Commission finds that the provisions of s. 196.50, Stats., are applicable to each of these dockets.

NSP proposes to construct, beginning from its existing Northern Natural Gas Company Town Border Station on Breidel Coulee Road in the Town of Shelby, La Crosse County, approximately 3,800 feet of 2-inch plastic (PE) main along Breidel Coulee Road in the Town of Shelby and into the northwest one quarter of section 17 and the south one half of the southwest one quarter of section 8 in the Town of Greenfield, La Crosse County, Wisconsin.

NSP projects 10 potential residential customers can be served by the proposed facilities, the estimated cost of which NSP states will be approximately \$16,976.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission will investigate the application without hearing unless an interested party requests a hearing within 10 working days of the date this notice is mailed.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary in order to carry out its duties to investigate the books, accounts, practices, and activities of Northern States Power Company, as a gas public utility. The expenses incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to the investigation will be assessed against and collected from Northern States Power Company as a gas public utility, under s. 196.85, Stats., and Chapter PSC 5, Wis. Adm. Code.

Docket 4220-CG-127

This is a Type III action under s. PSC 4.10(3), Wis. Adm. Code. No unusual circumstances suggesting the likelihood of significant environmental consequences have come to the Commission's attention. Neither an environmental impact statement under s. 1.11, Stats., nor an environmental assessment is required.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact Tom Reisdorf, Natural Gas Division at (608) 267-1475.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

For the Commission:

Anita Sprenger, Administrator
Natural Gas Division

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